THE SOCIETY of MARY

ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT ANGLICANS HONOUR MARY?

WHY?

There is hardly a place of any size which does not have a church named after her; in hamlets, villages, towns and great cities alike you will find churches consecrated to St. Mary, or named after one or other of her mysteries, such as the Annunciation or the Assumption.

She is far and away the most popular and beloved of all the saints. Almost every church in the whole world has a chapel or an altar called the Lady Chapel after Mary's ancient title of Our Lady, retained by the Church of England Prayer Book of 1662, which also honours her with five special feastdays each year in the Kalendar. The same Prayer Book also declares the Church of England's acceptance of the doctrines decided on by the early Councils of the Church, one of which (the Council of Ephesus, A.D. 431), defined Mary as being, in a special sense, "The Mother of God", insomuch as her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

SO DON'T BE SURPRISED ANY LONGER!

The Anglican Churches, in common with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, have a great love and veneration for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

But there are some Christians who have not thought about Mary's special place in their religion, or consider that devotion to her is mistaken, or extravagant, or a matter of personal choice. In the face of what the Bible and the Church teach us about her they are mistaken in their views.

THE BIBLE TELLS THESE FACTS ABOUT MARY

(1) She was especially chosen to be the Mother of Jesus.

(2) She was "full of grace", i.e. without any sin at all.

(3) She had a unique and special relationship with Jesus.

(4) She was close to her Son all during His ministry, and the first miracle was performed at her instigation.

(5) On the cross Jesus gave her to His beloved disciple John as a "Mother", and thus to all Mankind also.

(6) She was by the cross when Jesus died, offering herself with Him.

(7) She was with the apostles at Pentecost and the Holy Spirit descended on her too, making her the "Mother of the Church".

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HONOUR MARY WHY NOT JOIN THE SOCIETY OF MARY?

OBJECTS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY

To love and honour Mary.

To spread devotion to her, in reparation for past neglect and misunderstanding, and in the cause of Christian Unity.

To take Mary as a model in purity, personal relationships and family life.

IF YOU would like to assist in the important Christian work of the Society of Mary, JOIN NOW!

Members keep a simple **RULE OF LIFE,** which involves:

The keeping of the Catholic Precepts and use of the Sacraments, including Confession to a Priest.

The regular use of some recommended prayers and devotions to Mary, and a commitment to Christian service, where possible, in the name of the Society.

The Hon. General Secretary to the Society of Mary is:

The Revd. C. W. B. Vickery, S. Luke's Vicarage,
4 Burton Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 5TE.

In America write to:

The Hon. Secretary, The Society of Mary,
Mr. E. C. Martin, P.O. Box 656, Alexandria,
Virginia 22313, U.S.A.

In Canada write to:

The Hon. Secretary, The Society of Mary,
Miss Pamela K. M. Rigby, 666 Spadina Avenue, Apt 1207,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2H8, Canada.

In Australia write to:

The Hon. Secretary, The Society of Mary,
Mr. J. C. Bridson, 473 Albert Street, East Victoria,
Melbourne, 3002.

THE SOCIETY OF MARY springs from two similar societies founded in 1880 and 1901 respectively, which united in 1931. It has members all over the world and is not confined to Anglicans alone.

Where there are sufficient members in one place or area they combine to form a Ward, with a priest as Superior and an elected Secretary. They can then organise regular services, meetings and many other activities. Five or more members may form a Cell, and organise joint prayer and fellowship. Isolated members are joined to the Headquarters Ward.

The Society publishes its magazine "AVE" three times each year, with details of pilgrimages, retreats, festival services, etc., in various centres around the world. It is free to all members, and is the effective link between the various Regions.

The Society is not affiliated to any single Shrine or Marian institution, and is the only organisation endeavouring to promote equally all the different aspects of devotion to Mary.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Fill in this form and send it with your first subscription or Life membership to the General or your Regional Secretary.

DECLARATION (which must be made by those desiring to be admitted to membership of the Society of Mary):

I, ... (Revd./Mr./Mrs./Miss)
(Block letters—Full Name) (Delete as appropriate)

Declare that I am a member of the Holy Catholic Church and that I conform to her Discipline and Precepts, and desire to be admitted a MEMBER of the Society of Mary and hereby PROMISE to fulfil the Conditions and Undertake to Promote the Objects and keep the Rules of the Society. I enclose my first subscription herewith, £1 (or Life membership £15).

Signed.....

Address (Block letters) .....

.....

RECOMMENDATION by a Priest (who need not necessarily be a member):

From my PERSONAL knowledge of .....

I believe that he/she is suitable to be admitted as a member of the Society of Mary.

Date..... (Signed) .....

Address .....

.....

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

Date elected a member.....Ward .....

Secretary's confirmation .....

Membership card issued (date) .....